

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [00020] with the following amended paragraph:

[00020] FIG. 3 is a cross-section of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [00020]:

[00020.1] FIG. 4 is a cross-section of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [00030] with the following amended paragraph:

[00030] A truss structure 30 may be formed within the waist region 20 as shown in the figures. The truss structure may laterally bisect a concave surface extending between first and second ridges 22, 28. Alternatively, the truss structure may also be formed in other areas of the container, for example in ribs 18A. In the embodiment illustrated, the truss structure may generally be 20-40% thicker than the first and second ridges 22, 28, as shown in Figure 4 but not thicker than the overall container in average. Additionally, the truss structure may take forms other than that shown in the preferred embodiments. The truss structure should be delimited by the surface portions 24, 26, that is, the truss structure preferably does not extend beyond surface portions 24, 26. The truss structure may be comprised of structural members or surface features that provide structural support to the container 10. The truss structure should improve the hoop strength of the waist region 20 and maintain the top load strength of the container 10. The truss structure may be recessed with respect to the first ridge 22 and the second ridge 28. The truss structure may also be arranged continuously around the circumference of the container 10.